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Agricultural Memorandum No 755

Agroclimatic Areas - size and land classification

L P Smith

The O.S. Land Classification map divides the country into the following types of land:

Good Quality Land

- 1A First Class Land; arable, deep and fertile; easily cultivated.
- 2A Good general purpose farmland; good depth of well drained soil; arable.
- 2AG Similar land in heavier rainfall areas, usually lay farming.
- 3G First Class Land but with high water table; grass and dairy pastures.
- 4G Good but heavy land, usually under grass.

Medium Quality Land

- 5A Downland with shallow light soils; arable.
- 5G Downland; unploughable; in grass.
- 6AG Medium quality farmland under crops and grass.

Poor Quality Land

- 7G Heavy land; very wet soils; poor grass and wet moors.
- 8H Mountain land; thin soils; rough pastures.
- 9H Light land; thin sandy soils on lowland heaths.

The new agroclimatic areas were drawn on such a map and the areas in each category were measured by planimeter. On the map used, each of the three classes 5A, 8H and 9H were the same yellow colour (due to fading). Therefore the allocation had to be made by intelligent guesswork, and inaccuracies will be inevitable, especially in the 5A/9H allocations. The Appendix gives the approximate total area of each agroclimatic area in square kilometres, and the percentage of this area allocated to each land category.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

Meteorological Office
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APPENDIX

Percentages of area classified as:-

AREA	1A	2A	2AG	3G	4G	5A	5G	6AG	7G	8H	9H	Area, Km^2
1N	36		57			7						225
1S		11	20	9	49	11						1710
2		1	19		1			16		63		3615
3		6	47	3	2			35	1	6		2610
4			5					31		64		2670
5		39	39					17	5			2480
6		1						16		83		4815
7	4	12			6	10		34		34		1985
8	5	6	3	3	28			39	7	9		3425
9	63	9	6	4	15	3						1250
10							14	22	3	61		2465
11		9						76		15		1745
12	2	82			11			5				3040
13	4	77			7		7			5		2480
14	2	15	14	34	19			15		1		2735
15W		7	1		55		5	26		6		1890
15E	1	15		4	41	2		37				1310
16	11	13	21	4	15	9		17	2		8	4335
17W	12	42			26	2		13	5			3200
17E	7	45		11	23	11			3			1985
18N		22	7	8	38			22	1	2		1790
18S			12		19			53	2	14		910
19		33	5		26	3		31		2		1745
20		40	12	7	13	5		23				2050
21	10	31	14	5	30	4		6				1615
22W	1	30		17	47	3		2				2770
22E		43		10	33			14				1230
23	96			2	2							2240
24	11	54		4	1	18		8			4	4865
25N	1	3	48	4	10	4		28		2		2815
25S			14	8	2	8		64		4		1360
26		24			18	48		4	1		5	2305
27		11		4	51	10		17			7	1840
28	27	44			18	5		6				4545
29		78		2	2	14					4	3615
30		7	12	9	34	8		30				3265
31N		43		11	12	8		21			5	2080
31S	4	18		3	7	52		16				2785
32	11	22		1	14	10		26	5		11	2255
33W	4	22	32		20	10		9			3	1215
33E	9	60		2	7	21		20			1	3730
34	34	4		14	14	4		24	6			800
35		7	24	13	14	2	7	28	2	3		3950
36		33		2	16	19	16	16				3375
37N		8			3	10		40	35		4	1040
37S	10	25		10	20	35						320
38N	5	5		6	2	6		66	5		5	2080
38S		25		8	21	46						385
39W	19	19		1	16	5		30	10			1520
39E	9	28		23	11	14	4	7	4			895
40	4		4			18		55		19		1775
41			4			19		57	17	3		1120
42			37			5		50	2	6		1970
43N			9			27		21	8	35		1490
43S			44			5		51				1250
44	2			2		10		63	6	17		1550

AREA	1A	2A	2AG	3G	4G	5A	5G	6AG	7G	8H	9H	Area, Km^2
45W			46	3		24		27				945
45E		36			41	14		3			6	1665
46	11	18		1	8	22		22			18	2270
IOW	9					26	4	57	4			370
Wales												
47			9			39		40	12			1105
48N					4			16	4	76		3570
48S								10	4	86		1120
49N					2			47		51		2400
49S			4					50	8	38		2560
50			7		5			65	12	11		4210
51								22		78		1680
52			28		18			30		24		960